

Living With Fire

Associated Practical Activities

Adult learners tend to learn more efficiently by doing and are more likely to change their attitudes and behaviors when they participate in a practical exercise. The ability of practical activities to alter a student's perceptions should not be underestimated.

Each of the exercises described below involve live fire, smoke and activating fire alarm systems without notice. The developers of Living With Fire offer the activities listed below as examples of success. However, each activity must be developed and adapted to meet local needs and ensure the safety of the both the delivery staff and the student participants.

Practical Activity Summary

Crawl Through Smoke – This activity provides the opportunity for student to navigate through a smoke filled environment. Several versions of this activity exist and can be adapted to meet local needs. One option would be to fill a portion of a structure with a simulated non-toxic smoke. A second option would be to utilize a Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) trailer. As this is a practical based activity it presents an opportunity for the student to shed preconceived thoughts and recognize the dangers and reduced sensory ability presented in a fire situation. Additional Material is available under the resources section of the Living With Fire Web Site. Required materials range from a smoke generator to a fully equipped SAFE Trailer depending on class size and exercise structure.

Fire Extinguisher – Stove Fire – This activity simulates a cooking related fire in a pan on top of a stove and provides the student with the experience of suppressing a live fire. As an intensive practical activity involving live fire, the delivery team should expect several questions and plan an appropriate amount of time so that each student has the opportunity to attack and extinguish the fire. Required materials range from a pan, cooking oil and a simulated stovetop or a used stove. A structural enclosure prop could be utilized to add realism and demonstrate smoke spread. This activity should only be utilized after the student has had additional instruction pertaining to fire behavior and the use of fire extinguishers.

Fire Extinguisher – Waste Basket - This activity provides the student with the practical experience of using a fire extinguisher to control a live fire that started in a wastebasket. Emphasis should be placed on the student's ability to follow the following sequence: evaluate the situation, sound the alarm, select the proper extinguisher and properly apply the extinguishing agent. As an intensive practical activity the delivery team should expect several questions and plan an appropriate amount of time so that each student has the opportunity to attack and extinguish the fire. Several metal wastebaskets should be utilized to ensure that this exercise could be rapidly delivered to the student participants. A structural enclosure prop could be utilized to add realism and demonstrate smoke spread. This activity should only be utilized after the student has had additional instruction pertaining to fire behavior and the use of fire extinguishers.

Fire Extinguisher Demonstration - This activity demonstrates the selection and use of a fire extinguisher. Although the students do not actually use the extinguisher, the live fire component of this exercise provides a practical perspective and awareness level knowledge pertaining to the use of an extinguisher. It should be anticipated that most students have never seen an extinguisher utilized and may have several questions. This exercise should be selected when the impact of a live fire exercise is sought but time or resource constraints prohibit allowing students to actively participate.

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Live Burn Mock Up – This activity allows the student to observe the power of fire through a medium that provides tremendous stimulation of the senses of sight, sound, smell and temperature (radiated heat). This exercise demonstrates rapid-fire growth in a simulated portion of a residence hall room. Previous demonstrations have produced dramatic impact upon the student as they recognize that this could be their “stuff”. Emphasis should be placed upon safety, as such a safety zone around the prop should be secured, location and wind direction should be considered. Live fire video segments, design and construction information can be found within the Live Fire section of the Living with Fire Web Site.

Residential Fire Drill - This activity allows the student to practice their evacuation and accountability skills during an unanticipated fire alarm condition. Once the alarm is sounded evacuation of all students should be timed. Secondary to the drill, feedback relative to performance, timing and accountability should be presented in a group setting. In addition, students should be provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

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This matrix provides some guidance as to which practical activity matches with a particular Living With Fire lesson plan. These lesson plans can be found on the Living With Fire website under Lesson Plans.

Practical Activity Matrix

Lesson Plan	Fire Ext. - Waste Basket	Fire Ext. - Kitchen	Fire Ext. - Demo	Crawl Through Smoke	Live Burn Mock up	Fire Drill
Evacuation				Yes		Yes
Fire Behavior			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fire Extinguisher	Yes	Yes				
Off Campus Greek			Yes		Yes	Yes
Off Campus Residential			Yes		Yes	Yes
On Campus Housing			Yes		Yes	Yes